

Jed 799

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	25X1	REPORT NO.		25X1
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- 25X1 1. [] the general state of public health and sanitation in
 25X1 Bulgaria were good judging by Balkan standards, which were below those which
 she observed in Denmark and Germany. There was sewerage in Sofia and perhaps
 in some other large cities but not in smaller towns and villages.
2. According to law, all medical care in Bulgaria was administered free of charge. Every citizen was entitled to free medical examination and clinical care in the polyclinic of the district in which he resided or, in cases of serious illness, to hospital care in one of the state hospitals.
3. All medication given in hospitals was free of charge. Medicines for use at home had to be purchased by the patient, however. Generally speaking, medicines were rather expensive and difficult to obtain. For example, during the last two or three years, it has been very difficult to get penicillin. In 1953, it could be obtained with a doctor's prescription, which was given only in cases of serious illness. Other medicines were more easily available, but only on prescription. It was almost impossible to get Rimifon pills in pharmacies, but they were sold on the black market at very high prices, sometimes as high as about 200 leva per container. Aureomycin was almost impossible to obtain, as were a large number of other medicines, such as Soridon, Bayer aspirin, etc. Some physicians likened present day medical care in Bulgaria to that given 30 years ago because of the lack of medicines.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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4. [redacted] There was an epidemic of grippe in 1952, but not of catastrophic proportions. Tuberculosis has always been prevalent in Bulgaria. Most [redacted] suffered from tuberculosis in one stage or another. The government was taking measures to combat it through establishing sanatoria and offering free medical care to the population.
5. [redacted] tuberculosis, which according to official statistics, was on the wane. These statistics were deceptive, however. A case in point was that of a young woman [redacted] who was in the early stages of tuberculosis. She asked for a two-weeks' leave of absence from the University where she was studying in order to rest, but was told by the physician who examined her that she could get along, although she did not feel well. The physician simply did not wish to add another case to his statistics. Tuberculosis was actually widespread, especially among young people. Many of these cases were not incurable. Among [redacted] approximately 100 [redacted] philology majors at the University, there were six cases of tuberculosis listed officially during the second year. [redacted] a similar situation existed in the other departments of the University.
6. [redacted] sanatorium in Vladaya (N 42-37, E 23-12), a village near Sofia, [redacted] was struck by the large number of young people who were ill. [redacted] the sanatorium was always filled to capacity. Every student was entitled to three months' care in a sanatorium.
7. The incidence of nervous disorders and maladies resulting from them, such as ulcers, gall bladder, kidney troubles, and heart diseases, was increasing, especially among the young people. There was also much incidence of children's diseases, such as chicken pox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria.
8. The hospitals were almost always filled to capacity. [redacted] food was poor and inadequate in hospitals. [redacted]
9. [redacted]
- [redacted] The population in general had a meager, but not a starvation, diet.

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